



# TIPS FOR CUTTING YOUR OWN TREE

- **Do Not Go Too Late** – Land management agencies start selling Christmas tree permits around the first of November to make it easier for the public to purchase a permit. Cut your Christmas tree before the higher elevations are covered in snow, but not so early your tree dries out too soon. A well-watered cut tree can hold its needles about 6 weeks.
- **Purchase a Permit** – Ensure you have read and understand the rules and regulations. The Christmas tree tag(s) and permit must be in your possession when cutting your Christmas tree(s). Permittee must be present when the tree is cut.
- **Measure Your Space** – Make sure to measure the place in the house where the tree will go (height & width) and measure the space in your vehicle where you will be transporting your tree.
- **Take a Tape Measure** – It is always best to bring a measuring tape to measure the trees.
- **Boots and Gloves** – Wear sturdy boots that protect feet and good, heavy-duty work gloves. Have some kind of eye protection to protect them from rogue pine needles. Wet wipes are great for removing sap from hands and fingers.
- **Test for Freshness** – In order to make sure your chosen tree is fresh, run a branch through your enclosed hand. The needles should not come off easily. Bend the outer branches – they should be pliable. If they are brittle and snap easily, the tree is too dry.
- **Cutting the Tree** – The maximum tree diameter you can cut is six inches at the base of the tree. The maximum stump height allowed is 12 inches above the bare soil. Please ensure that the maximum height of the stump left behind is no taller than twelve inches above bare soil with no live branches left on the stump.
- **Shake It** – The tree may well have become home to birds, bugs, and spiders during the year, so once it is cut, shake it! A vigorous shaking will not only get rid of loose pine needles but will also evict anything making a home in tree. Once you get the tree home carefully spray it down with water before taking it into the house.
- **Be Careful During Transport** – Be careful not to break branches or bend the thin part at the top. Also, you should prepare your vehicle for transport. If you are putting the tree on top of your car, bring ropes or tie-downs. If you are going to put it in the vehicle, make sure to line the back area of the car with a blanket or tarp because there will be shedding, and it will be difficult to clean. Make sure to attach the tree tag in a location that will remain on the tree and visible while in transit. Remember, you must follow all Travel Management rules found on the Lassen Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM,) available on our website.
- **Ensure Freshness** – When you get your tree home, take a one-inch slice off the bottom of the trunk where the tree was cut to allow it to soak up nutrients and water faster. Get the tree into water as soon as possible. Make sure the water is not too cold (it can shock the tree).
- **Water Daily** – An average tree may consume between a quart and a gallon of water per day. If the water level drops below the cut end of the trunk, a seal will form, and no more water will be absorbed by the tree unless another fresh cut is made. So do not forget to add water every day. To keep the tree from drying out, place it well away from sunny windows, heat registers, space heaters, fireplaces, and wood stoves.